
Statement of Support: A2316 (Morelle) / S966 (Funke)

Relates to the establishment of a registry system for medical orders for life-sustaining treatment (MOLST and eMOLST)

With almost 400,000 people living with Alzheimer's disease and 1.1 million caregivers tending to them in New York State, advance care planning is vitally important to our constituents.

Medical orders for life-sustaining treatment (MOLST) is a set of medical directives that reflect the patient's preferences for life-sustaining treatment and that are to be followed in an emergency. MOLST forms must be signed by both physician and patient, and compliance with the form emphasizes discussion of a patient's goals for end-of-life care between health care professionals and patients who are seriously ill or frail.

Advance planning and clear direction for healthcare choices reduces confusion and guilt that some family members feel when forced to make difficult and urgent healthcare decisions. Dementia can compromise capacity to communicate one's wishes and advance directives, and MOLST / e-MOLST provide essential guidance to healthcare professionals and first responders if they have the information readily available. The creation of an online accessible e-MOLST registry offers this opportunity.

MOLST/e-MOLST are critical to ensure that healthcare actions consistent with the patient's wishes are made in a timely and accurate manner. The creation of an electronic registry system for MOLST will facilitate the wishes of those living with Alzheimer's and dementia and assist their caregivers by providing access to these established decisions quickly and simply. For healthcare professionals and first responders who need immediate direction, this is critical.

The Coalition strongly supports **A2316 /S966** to: 1) establish a statutory electronic registry system for medical orders for life-sustaining treatment (e-MOLST); 2) accelerate the digital transformation by requiring practitioners who complete a MOLST form to submit to the eMOLST registry within 14 days and 3) make changes to public health law, so that the words "Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST)" would exist in public health law.

About the Coalition

The Alzheimer's Association, New York State Coalition is the leading statewide organization advocating for all New Yorkers affected by Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. To achieve this mission, we advance public policy, increase concern and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and the services available through the Alzheimer's Association, and provide and enhance care and support.